

GROUND

Your Source for News & Views in and around the Lehigh Valley



Vol. 3 Issue 8

August 1976



DIAMONZ



VOLLEYBALL

**Sunday, August 11
2:00 PM**

5 Players per Team
Captains sign-up in
the gameroom

Outdoor Fun Now Includes:

- Basketball • Horseshoes • Bean bags
- Bring your Chairs and Coolers & Join the Party!*

AUGUST ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP

Sat., Aug. 3 - KATE & CJ

Sat., Aug 10 - COMMON BOND

Sat., Aug. 17 - E.J. PARIS DUO

Sat., Aug. 24 - SCARLETT

Sat., Aug. 31 - LAURA RICCABONO

Diamondz 5th

EMPLOYEE TALENT SHOW

If you've seen any of the first four,

You won't miss this Event!

Thursday, August 22
9:00 PM



Jody Lynn
&
Friends

Sunday, August 25
9:00 PM • NO COVER

Dinner Coupon

Buy any Entree and Receive Second Entree
of equal or lesser value FREE*

*Value not to exceed \$12.95 Not valid with any other offer



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ABOVEGROUND

PO Box 1656
Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Editor Speaks!

We welcome two new comics to our magazine this month. You can find *CindyGirl™:the down-home country lesbian* and *Harold the Bird™* on page 23 of this issue. As with all the material we present, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Summer may be whizzing away, but there are still plenty of activities ahead. Make sure to check the coming events section so you don't miss out on the fun!

On The Cover:

Participants at the 4th Annual BGLA Picnic add a new twist to the line "and your mamma dresses you funny" as they try for the best time in the "Drag Race" competition.

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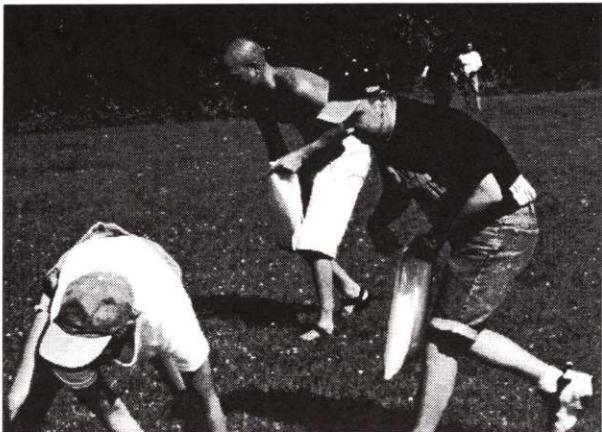
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The businesses who advertise in AboveGround magazine make it possible to bring it to you each month. Just as they support our community and this publication, we urge you to support their businesses and to let them know that you saw their ad here, in AboveGround magazine.

A Look Back



1. "Looking for Nuts" at the Berks Gay and Lesbian Alliance's 5th Annual Picnic.

2. We've all heard of passing the salami, but the cucumber?! Just another of the many fun games at the BGLA picnic held in Leesport, Pa on Saturday, July 20



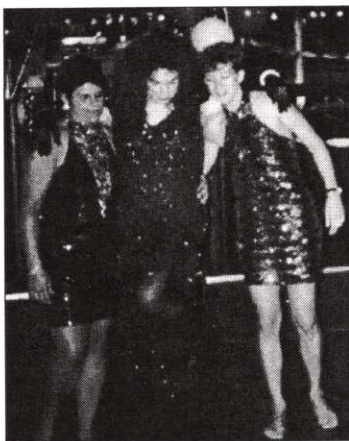
5. Marc Colver wins the Karaoke finals at Diamonz on Thursday, July 11. From here he went on to compete in the regional finals at the Colonial Inn.

3 & 4. The crowd at Stonewall got "chilled out" for Tinsel Garland's Christmas in July Show on Wednesday, July 24.



8. Talk about saying Cheesee!! Velveeta, host of Diamonz's Karaoke finals poses with bar owner Lenora and friend Deb

6. Regine teaches the showgirl routine to Andrea & Joscelyn at Diamonz during Lenora's Birthday Party on July 7.



7. Modestine is joined by her friend and daughter while celebrating her birthday at Diamonz on July 11.



The Scarab

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Keith (manager)

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- Drink Special 10-12
- DJ 10pm-2am

Thursdays:

- Drink Special 10-12
- Karaoke 10pm-2am

Tuesdays:

- Drink Special 10-12
- Karaoke 10pm-2am

Fridays &

Saturdays:

- Special Happy Hour 8pm - 10pm
- DJ 10pm - 2am
- Patio Open 10pm - 2am
- Special Happy Hour
- Coupon Night



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HOURS: Monday through Saturday 8:00 PM - 2:00 AM

Coming Events

DATE	TYPE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
AUG 3	L	KATE & CJ	9PM	DIAMONZ - Bethlehem
3	D	TINSEL GARLAND	CALL	RAINBOW MT, E. Stroudsburg
4	L	BONNIE BOLAND	CALL	RAINBOW MT, E. Stroudsburg
7	MEET	MEETING - PRIDE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY	7PM	Grace Cov. Fellowship, A-town
7	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12AM	STONEWALL, Allentown
9	***L	COMMEIDIENE EMMY GAY	11PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
9	L	LAURIE RICCABONO	CALL	RAINBOW MT, E. Stroudsburg
10	L	COMMON BOND	9PM	DIAMONZ - Bethlehem
11	SP	SAND VOLLEYBALL	2PM	DIAMONZ - Bethlehem
11	L	KATE & CJ	CALL	RAINBOW MT, E. Stroudsburg
14	D	MAXI CARTER & The Girls Behind the wall	11:30PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
15	F	BINGO for FACT's Family Support Services	8-11PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
16	L	ELAINE PAXSON with Christian Daizey	10PM-2AM	STONEWALL, Allentown
17	L	KATE & CJ	CALL	RAINBOW MT, E. Stroudsburg
17	L	EJ PARIS DUO	9PM	DIAMONZ - Bethlehem
17	L	MICHAEL FERRERI	10PM-2AM	STONEWALL, Allentown
18	ST	THE DREAM TEAM MALE REVIEW	11:30PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
21	D	TINSEL GARLAND	12AM	STONEWALL, Allentown
22	S	DIAMONZ EMPLOYEE SHOW	9PM	DIAMONZ - Bethlehem
24	L	LINDA HERSKOVIC	CALL	RAINBOW MT, E. Stroudsburg
24	L	SCARLETTE	9PM	DIAMONZ - Bethlehem
25	D	JODY LYNN & FRIENDS	9PM	DIAMONZ - Bethlehem
25	L	KATE & CJ	CALL	RAINBOW MT, E. Stroudsburg
28	D	CORRINE MICHAELS presents "Va, Va Voom"	11:30PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
30	ST	THE BOUND BOYZ MALE REVIEW	11:30PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
31	ST	THE BOUND BOYS MALE REVIEW	CALL	RAINBOW MT, E. Stroudsburg
31	L	LAURA RICCABONO	9PM	DIAMONZ - Bethlehem
SEPT 1	L	BONNIE BOLAND	CALL	RAINBOW MT, E. Stroudsburg
SEPT 1	ST	THE DREAM TEAM MALE REVIEW	11:30PM	STONEWALL, Allentown
SEPT 2	***	LABOR DAY TEA DANCE & BARBECUE	3PM	CARTWHEEL, New Hope
SEPT 6	***	SISTERSPACE WEEKEND (Sept 6,7 &8)	CALL	Canadensis, PA (215)476-8856
SEPT 7	***	SISTERSPACE WEEKEND (Sept 6,7 &8)	CALL	Canadensis, PA (215)476-8856
SEPT 8	***	SISTERSPACE WEEKEND (Sept 6,7 &8)	CALL	Canadensis, PA (215)476-8856
SEPT 8	***F	THE 11th ANNUAL FACT SUMMER GAMES	12PM	RAINBOW MT., E. Stroudsburg

***-SPECIAL EVENT L-LIVE VOCAL ST-STRIP SHOW D-DRAG SHOW F-FUNDRAISER SP-SPORT EVENT

Note: The Coming Events section is provided as a voluntary service to the community. Due to the chance of typographical error, schedule changes, or inadequate source information, we strongly suggest that you use it as a guide and call the individual organizations for more info and/or confirmation. Phone numbers can be found on page 26.

goin' on Weekly

SUNDAY

- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
- KARAOKE / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
- ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL
- SUNDAY TEA / CARTWHEEL / 4PM

MONDAY

- ALL AGE NIGHT / STONEWALL / 10PM-2AM
- DRAG SEARCH / CARTWHEEL / 11PM
- New Release Video Night / SELECTIONS

TUESDAY

- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM
- KARAOKE / SCARAB / 10pm-2am
- KARAOKE / SELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY

- COUPON NIGHT / SCARAB
- POOL LEAGUE / CANDIDA 8PM
- FlashBack 80's Video / SELECTIONS
- MALE STRIPPERS / CARTWHEEL / 11:30PM

THURSDAY

- KARAOKE / DIAMONZ / 9PM-2AM
- KARAOKE / SCARAB / 10PM-2AM
- KARAOKE / CANDIDA / 10PM-2AM
- COUNTRY 2-STEP / Cartwheel / 8PM
- COUNTRY WESTERN / SELECTIONS

FRIDAY

- Country-Western/Diamonz/7:30-10:30PM
- DJ Request Night/Diamonz/10:30-2:00
- MICHAEL FERRERI/CARTWHEEL

SATURDAY

- ELAINE PAXSON / CARTWHEEL
- POOL & PATIO PARTY/SCARAB/4-8

**TINSEL
GARLAND**
Sat., August 3

KATE & CJ
Sun., August 11
Sat., August 17
Sun., August 25

**BONNIE
BOLAND**
Sun., August 4

**LINDA
HERSKOVIC**
Sat., August 24

Labor Day WEEKEND



**The
BOUND
BOYZ**
Saturday
August 31

BONNIE BOLAND
Sunday, September 1

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EMPOWERMENT: The Right to Self Determination

Traditional institutions do not offer acceptable answers to the compelling questions each of us have regarding who we are, how we are who we are, and why we are. These answers are available. There is a process by which we access these answers. We need to connect with our own story and empower ourselves to the right of self-determination. We need to recognize our traumas and fears as valid but not victimizing. As we clearly know, the larger society encourages victimization of any perceived outgroup. What that really means is any group that does not conform to patriarchal standards. Social control through victimization is really society's response to feeling threatened. Society has constructed itself on patriarchal concepts of hierarchy as the norm, of rigid thought as natural, of pathologizing victims and normalizing violence. Society has a vested interest in keeping homosexuals separated from heterosexuals, in keeping bisexuals and transgenders separate from homosexuals and certainly separate from heterosexuals.

By eroding self-esteem through legal maneuvers, fear tactics, religious ostracism and family rejection, society keeps us closeted, fearful and silent. Pride and dignity are denied us. So who we are, how we are, and the real purpose we serve a society, are never affirmed. And the more society can keep us silent and separate, the less self-esteem we have. Social control through fear of victimization is powerful. When we give away our self-esteem to traditional institutions, we are in fact giving away our power. Power legally, financially, politically, spiritually and psychologically.

By giving over to society the power to define who we are, we can not have dignity. Most importantly, we can not have the sacredness of who we are. Each of us is a sacred being; we tend to forget that. We think only in human ego terms. As sacred beings we are to live in alignment with spiritual concepts. These concepts are universal. They transcend cultures, color, countries, customs. As sacred beings, love is the issue. The question is not whom do you love, the real question is: Do you love, and how is that love expressed by you and experienced by others? When we view it this way we connect with the dignity of our love. We have no shame about our love. We bridge the issue of the love we feel, not as solely human love, but as a spiritual love, a spiritual essential. We walk the bridge to harmony, pride, confidence. The bridge to full acknowledgment of what our purpose is to society. We are messengers to society that being able to love is the key spiritual issue ... for everyone ... gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual and transgendered.

PART OF OUR HERITAGE

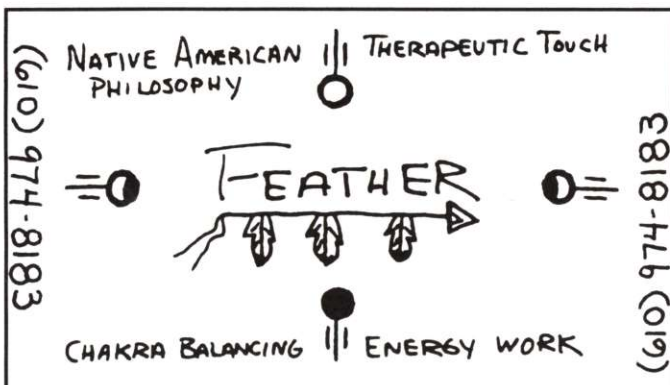
submitted by Liz Bradbury

So you think you're so Gay?....

Fill in the rest of the last name of these famous people who are, or are rumored to be, gay or lesbian.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Lily T _____ | Movie and Broadway Star |
| 2. Lea D _____ | Stand up Comic |
| 3. Dag H _____ | First Chair of UN |
| 4. Tennessee W _____ | Southern Writer |
| 5. Elton J _____ | Singer/Song Writer |
| 6. Virginia W _____ | Writer |
| 7. Barney F _____ | Politician |
| 8. Jim N _____ | TV Mayberry Resident |
| 9. K.D.L _____ | Singer / Heart Throb |
| 10. Sonia J _____ | Mormon Activist |
| 11. Susan B.A _____ | Early activist |
| 12. Montgomery C _____ | Actor |
| 13. Charlotte B _____ | Author |
| 14. Barry M _____ | "He writes the songs" |
| 15. Deb P _____ | Newspaper Columnist |
| 16. Richard S _____ | Exercise Advocate |
| 17. Martina N _____ | Athlete, etc. |
| 18. Edna St.Vincent M _____ | Poet |
| 19. Roberta A _____ | Clinton Appointee |
| 20. Billy Jean K _____ | Tennis Star |
| 21. Bessie S _____ | Blues Singer |
| 22. Gertrude S _____ | Writer |
| 23. Rudolph N _____ | Ballet Star |
| 24. Sergei D _____ | Head of Russian Ballet |
| 25. Hans Christian A _____ | Storyteller |

Answers on page 19



Monday, September 2 • 3:00pm
LABOR DAY TEA DANCE & COMPLIMENTARY BBQ



DRAG SEARCH

hosted by
Monica Rey

Every Monday • Club opens at 9pm



MICHAEL FERRERI

performing
 at our Piano Bar
 Every Friday
 9:30 PM

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*The Cartwheel puts Country
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 3:30-5:30 Bar Menu
 5:30-11:00 Dinner

Dinner: Nightly 5:30-10pm • Weekends 5:30-11pm

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HARDBODYS MALE REVIEW



Wednesdays • Club opens at 9pm

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with Christian Daizey
 at our Piano Bar
 Saturdays & Sundays
 9:30 PM



EVERY WEEK SUNDAY TEA

Featuring ...
 JOE BLACK and his
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 Starting at 4pm • Every Week



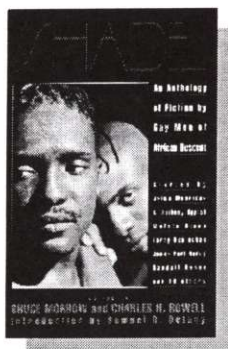
It's all happening at...
CARTWHEEL

of course!

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BOOK REVIEW

Shade: An Anthology of Fiction by Gay Men of African Descent, edited by Bruce Morrow and Charles H. Rowell. New York: Avon Books, 1996. 348 Pages, \$12.00

Shade is a collection of contemporary short stories. In his introduction, Samuel R., Delany defines "shade" as "a subtler

form of dishing, a mode or repartee with a black accent whose connotations are more ironic and notably more nuanced than what's usually meant by the largely straight term "dis (as in the verb "disrespect")." Although these are pieces written by gay black men, one should not believe that these have only marginal or minimal appeal, for most (if not all) of the 23 different stories have a much larger relevance to our entire community.



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Because this is an anthology, there are many different styles of writing, many different tones of voice, but throughout, one gains a common purpose of emotionally sensitive and socially relevant view points. There are several stories worth previewing. L. Phillip Richardson's "Powers That Be" examines the despair involved in the loss of self through active drug addiction and cruising video-booths for anonymous sex. Bil Wright's "Your Mother from Cleveland" tells of the memorial service for a drag performer known as "Your Mother." S/he is laid out, uncharacteristically, in a plain male business suit, which prompts the narrator to discover within himself that coming out of the closet is a continual process of self-affirmation. Jaime Manrique's "Twilight at the Equator" examines the phony, double-standards involved with being "macho" or "femme."

One of the most powerful stories in the entire collection is "Church" by G. Winston James. A writer has returned to his boyhood neighborhood and is attending a church service at his old parish. When recognized by the minister, he is invited to address the congregation. As he does, he is able to admit the truth that he has come home to die, because he has AIDS. Instead of being rejected, which was his initial fear, he is embraced as a spiritual as well as social being. The story concludes:

Grace was singing, "I used to complain that I had no shoes, then I saw a man who had no feet to use. And I am blessed. Better than blessed. Thank you, Lord."

I realized that that's just what I was talking about, realizing how slight most of our limitations really are. Then I found myself wishing that I could believe in more than just gospel music. I wanted to believe in God because of how good that burning in my heart felt at that moment. So I thought about the verses Grace used to sing. I remembered "God is the joy and the strength of my life." And I wondered if maybe God wasn't whatever made you truly happy in life. Then I looked up at the ceiling of the chapel. I threw my question to the beams. As Grace was singing, "I am blessed" one more time, my question bounced off the ceiling, fell down and slapped me to the floor. And I cried, "I'm gay! Praise God! Hallelujah!"

And I heard the congregation say, "Amen!"

As with most anthologies, no one can read this and find each and every story to be relevant, or entertaining. I have only mentioned a few of the many examples that touch me personally in terms of both myself and/or others I know. The late James Baldwin is quoted at the beginning of this volume as stating: "The world is before you and you need not take it or leave it as it was when you came in." This credo is aptly expressed in the life-affirming contents to be found in this book. Enjoy!



Wednesday, August 7 & 21
The Zany
TINSEL GARLAND
Showtime - 12midnight



Friday, August 9
Comedienne
EMMY GAY
In the Lounge - 11pm



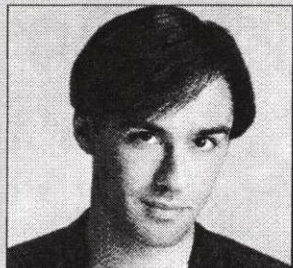
Wednesday, August 14
MAXI CARTER
And the Girls behind the Wall
Showtime - 11:30pm



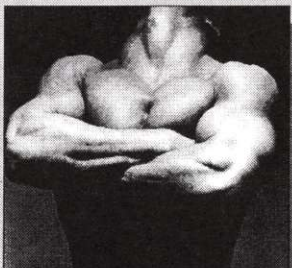
Thursday, August 15
Dame Betty Hosts
BINGO for F.A.C.T.
8-11pm In the Lounge



Friday, August 16
ELAINE PAXSON
With Christian Daizey
10pm-2am In the Lounge



Saturday, August 17
The Stonewall presents
MICHAEL FERRERI
10pm-2am In the Lounge



Sunday, August 18
THE DREAM TEAM
11:30pm In the Disco
NO COVER CHARGE!

**DiSarita
promo
PARTY**
Special Prices On
**Amaretto DiSaronno
Margaritas**

Wednesday, August 21
10pm - 12am



Wednesday, August 28
"Va Va Voom!" hosted by
CORRINE MICHAELS
11:30pm In the Disco

STONEWALL

28 N. 10th Street

Allentown, PA 18101

610-432-0215

Brochures are currently available for the 1996 edition of "THE WEEKEND". The women's festival is celebrating it's 21st year of fun in the sun in the heart of the Pocono Mountains the weekend of September 6-8. This year's event boasts such notable performers as **Suede**, **Karen Williams**, The "Voices of Africa" Choral Ensemble, **Kim Kalman**, and **CW Dancing** with the divas of lesbian country western dance instructors **Maile** and **Marina** (making their only festival appearance for 1996).

Featured speakers include **Sabrina Sojourner** and **Letitia Gomez**, discussing multiple aspects of being in a lesbian relationship; **Mary Lou Schack**, psychologist, who will conduct a lesbian couple workshop intensive designed to bring your partnership to a new level; **Denise Kulp**, co-chair of Liberty City Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, who will share secrets of the recent Democratic Convention and how you can get involved; and **Dykes and Dames** providing workshops on basic GYN care, discussions surrounding today's hottest top-

ics on lesbians and sex, and favorite bedtime and erotic stories.

The festival attracts over 800 women to a secluded private 1000+ acre site. The grounds include athletic fields of every kind, swimming pool, a lake for boating, and beautiful views. Other amenities include a general store, women's merchant area, art gallery, videos, open mike stage, dances, and workshops daily.

Registration for the festival includes a sliding scale fee based on income, and this year is offering three (3) deadlines, providing you with the best opportunities to get the best rate possible. Accommodations include group cabins, RV space (no hookups), and plenty of tenting space, in areas ranging from chem-free to family to rowdy. Children are welcome, in the "camp within a camp" (males under 8 yrs). Meals are included, both vegetarian and non-veggies.

For more information, or to receive a brochure, send a SASE to S.O.D.V., 542A South 48th St., Phila., PA. 19143, or call (215)476-8856; TDD (215)747-7554. You may also FAX them at (215)747-7565, or E-Mail to: sodv@aol.com.

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Monday thru Saturday

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Every Thursday 10pm-2am



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POETRY

DEAD END JOURNEY

Tired memories of heartbreak eat away
on my soul,
God knows I've fought them, but they've
taken control.
The thought of new love is a fear I'll
collect,
Puts my heart into orbit, my soul in reject.
It hurts on occasion, though I hide it
inside,
I feel guilty for taking others on my
soul's dead end ride.
Though guilt is a feeling I'm learning
to vent,
My soul's, dead end journey, is no cheerful
event.
My life's goal, is to one day, dump off all
this pain,
Then my, loving, lost soul, will be happy
again.

-Nick Cammarano (Macungie, PA)

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When did Rock Hudson's homosexuality become public knowledge?

PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

Rock Hudson is an excellent example of the complex nature of the closet and public awareness of a prominent figure's homosexuality. Hudson was rumored to be gay from the earliest years of his career, yet some people denied he was gay even after he died of AIDS in 1985. As Hudson was both an active lover of men and the movie star who throughout the 1950s and 1960s seemed to personify manliness, his case is almost a textbook study of American anxieties over masculinity, sexuality, and fame.

Born Roy Scherer Fitzgerald in 1925, Hudson made his first major splash as an actor in the 1954 film *Magnificent Obsession*, in which he played an unruly playboy who becomes a surgeon. As a 29-year old bachelor, though, Hudson raised eyebrows throughout 1950s America, and articles with headlines such as "Too Busy for Love" appeared in the popular press. The scandal-

happy Confidential wanted to do an expose on Hudson's homosexuality and even offered his lover \$10,000 to discuss the subject, but no story appeared. Some say that Universal Studios offered Confidential some dirt on another one of its stars in order to keep Hudson's sexuality out of the publication.

To quash the rumors, Hudson quickly married Phyllis Gates (who Hudson later claimed was bisexual, although she denied that). The three-year marriage temporarily boosted Hudson's heterosexual image. But in the following decades, as Hudson established himself as a leading man in feature films and on TV's "McMillan and Wife," rumors about Hudson continued to spread although it was never discussed explicitly in print. In 1971, someone sent fake invitations to the wedding of Hudson and Jim Nabors (TV's Gomer Pyle) to several gossip columnists. Although the pair had been good friends, they were not lovers and certainly never married - but the hoax still seems to have hurt Nabors' career. In Hudson's case, none of the rumors seemed to slow his fame as a masculine idol - or his pursuit of handsome men.

In the 1970s, Hudson became friends with Armistead Maupin, whose serial novel *Tales of the City* about gay and straight San Franciscans appeared in the San Fran-

Monterey, a great place for the girls and I to have lunch or dinner. We're always comfortable and the food is great...



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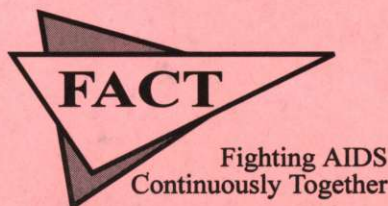
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cisco Chronicle. Maupin (among others) urged Hudson to come out and break down stereotypes about gays and lesbians. Hudson consistently demurred, considering his sexuality to be private and objecting to the public spectacle of the gay liberationists with their parades (which he once described as marching with a jar of Vaseline). Nonetheless, Hudson threw parties for dozens of handsome men and joined Maupin in exploring the sexual playground of 1970s San Francisco.

Maupin later satirized Hudson by including him as a character in *Tales of the City*, albeit identified only as _____. In one extended plot line, Maupin's gay character Michael Tolliver visits _____'s Los Angeles home, where he sleeps with _____. The movie star questions Michael's participation in the Gay Men's Chorus, contemplating why people make such a big deal out of being gay. Michael tells his host that gay organizations make it easier for gay people to be proud of their heritage - a heritage Michael informs _____ he's a part of. Hudson was diagnosed with AIDS in mid-1984, although his disease remained a secret for more than a year. When he appeared increasingly gaunt in his role on *Dynasty* and other public appearances, his publicists insisted that he was simply dieting. He looked particularly ill in his last public appearance, which ironically was a commercial promoting his old friend Doris Day's new show on the Christian Broadcasting Network.

In July 1985, news of Hudson's disease hit the newspapers, garnering far more public attention about the disease than any previous AIDS-related story. Several newspapers and TV stations initially treated the story as proof that AIDS affected more than just gays and drug users. Amazingly, some gay-run AIDS organizations cooperated with this farce. A representative of one such organization even told the press that Hudson's illness proves that "AIDS is not a gay white male disease."

Soon, however, the Chronicle and several other newspapers ran lengthy stories about Hudson's decades-long struggle with vastly different public and private lives. The media coverage of Hudson's illness was often ridiculous - several news outlets raised the question of whether Linda Evans might now be infected since she had kissed Hudson (her co-star on *Dynasty*) on TV. Tasteless jokes abounded (Why is everyone in Hollywood terrified of AIDS? Because they've all had a piece of the Rock), but the widespread attention brought public awareness of the ongoing AIDS crisis to a new level. Calls to AIDS hotlines soared, and private-sector fundraising for AIDS research skyrocketed, boosted by a \$250,000 contribution from Hudson himself to jumpstart the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. If there's anything about the history of gays and/or lesbians you've always wondered about, contact him care of this magazine or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

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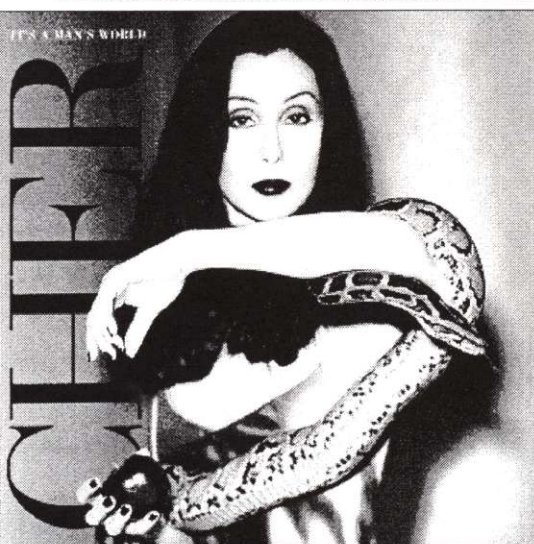
16



Music

REVIEW

by
C.Robert Frank



January 1995: "Your Loving Arms" scorches to number one on Billboard's Dance Chart.

November 1995: "Running Around Town" is finally released as a follow-up single. three 12"s with remixes by BT, Junior Vasquez and DMC push the song to number one.

January 1996: "Imitation Of Life," probably the most profound of the Billie Ray Martin singles, sports straight forward Morales and Drama Extreme brothers in Rhythm mixes.

May 1996: Top 40 radio buys a vowel, gets a clue, and begins programming "Your Loving Arms."

June 1996: Deadline For My Memories is released.

Is this sad or what? Let's face it, Jewel's album is over two years old and most idiots are just now discovering it because it has a Top 40 song. BRM will probably not hit Top 10. The album is, quite frankly, a bit too gay. Sure, the dance stuff's there. All with Billie Ray's signature "yeah" and screams. BRM is a true drama queen. This is most evident in the album's all too ready for Broadway ballads. Show stoppers like "Still Waters" and "You And I" would move any bedazzled forty-something theatre goer to their feet in tear-filled accolade. While this may sound a bit "Diss-y," these over the edge production numbers actually are Deadline's charm. I'm reminded of the Pet Shop Boys "We All Feel Better In The Dark" or "Kings Cross," typical British melodrama in 5 minutes or less. No, the album's not incredible (the psycho strings during "Big Tears and Make-up" cause me to chuckle every time I hear them) but, to many, it will be considered fabulous.

Buy-O-Meter : Highly recommended for anyone who'd waste 65 bucks to see Beauty And The Beast on Broadway. Strongly recommended for those who love the dance songs but don't want to clutter their collection with CD singles. Not recommended for the straight-acting/appearing crowd.

While Junior's remix of "One By One" is quite a twirler, the American album version is a bit more poignant. It seems Cher has finally found her element in It's A Man's World. We've all seen the tattoo, so there's no longer a need to shock-rock us. While many of her contemporaries have fallen short, (Lionel Richie and Bette Midler) Cher excels in a genre of music that is on its last legs. Not since Katey Sagal's Well have I heard an adult contemporary album this simple and elegant. Sure, there's that essential Cher flair ... especially in "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore" and her provocative "It's A Man's Man's Man's World." Now old fans and new-found lovers can both be happy. What I really want to know is, "Why is her hair so frizzy on the cover?"

Be prepared, Kristine W Land Of The Living is ready for release. This album is going to blow you away!!

DJ's TOP TEN

DJ : Vince
Club: THE BUZZ / Scranton

1. One By One
CHER
2. Because You Love Me
LOST
3. Walk For Me
TRONCO TAXX
VOLUME ONE
4. Where Do You Go
NO MERCY
5. Reach
GLORIA ESTEFAN
6. If Madonna Calls
JUNIOR VASQUEZ
7. You're Makin Me High
TONI BRAXTON
8. Drop The Top
SUPER MR. MARVELOUS
9. Before
PET SHOP BOYS
10. Professional Widow
TORI AMOS

DJ : Mike Tolleson
Club: CANDIDA / Allentown

1. He Gives Me Love
SANDRA FEVA
2. You're Makin Me High (rmx)
TONI BRAXTON
3. Keep On Jumpin'
MARTHA WASH &
JOCELYN BROWN
4. I Am Woman
THE COVER GIRLS
5. Where Do You Go?
NO MERCY
6. DJ Girl
KATALINA
7. Just The Two Of Us
TOSHI KUBOTA
8. Let Your Heart Remember
JM
9. Jellyhead
CRUSH
10. Cravin' Your Love
SAMANTHA

VIDEO

DJ : David Petrilla
Club: STONEWALL / Allentown
CARTWHEEL / New Hope

1. Professional Widow
TORI AMOS
2. You're Makin Me High
TONI BRAXTON
3. Make The World Go Round
SANDY B
4. Movin' Melodies
INDICA
5. Before
PET SHOP BOYS
6. Don't Stop Movin'
LIVIN' JOY
7. Won't Give Up My Music
PULSE
8. Walkin On Sunshine
THE JAH BOYZ
9. Banji Dance
CASANOVA'S REVENGE
10. Cha Cha
ARMAND VAN HELDEN

VJ : Michael Leidy
Club: STONEWALL / Allentown

1. Klubhopping
KLUBHEADS
2. Children
ROBERT MILES
3. Before
PET SHOP BOYS
4. Keep Knockin
DOUBLE VISION
5. Dirty Love
LONNIE GORDON
6. Strange World
KÉ
7. Astroplane
B.K.S.
8. Reach (rmx)
GLORIA ESTEFAN
9. Chase
MIDI-XPRESS
10. Levitticus fagot (rmx)
ME'SHELL NDEGE'OCELLO

18 More On Same-Sex Marriage or Don't Just Stand There, Do Something!

By Liz Bradbury

In case you weren't paying attention, we're in the middle of a backlash...and we haven't even gained any rights yet! The Houses in both DC and Harrisburg have passed anti-same sex marriage bills. What does this mean to us? These things:

1. Even though these bills have been passed and may be ratified into laws the fate of same sex marriage will ultimately be decided in the Supreme Court.

2. Two Supreme Court Justices are due to retire in the next 4 years. Gays and lesbians will be far more likely to secure equal rights in America if Bill Clinton appoints the new justices rather than Bob Dole. (It was the two justices Clinton appointed in the last four years that created a majority to defeat the anti-gay rights Amendment 2.)

3. Though our Constitution does not put individual rights "solely at the mercy of the tyranny of the majority"

historically the Supreme Court, and certainly elected lawmakers, are influenced by public opinion. Gays and lesbians make up about ten percent of the population. That is not a majority. Currently there about 33 percent of the population is in support of same sex marriage. About 33 percent is undecided and 33 percent is against us.

What should you do?

First, forget it's the 1990's where everybody wants something for nothing.

Second, stop whining about it and get to work. (You wouldn't believe how many people I've heard moaning that they are so disillusioned with the system, the candidates, society. One guy

actually told me at the Pride Fest that he wasn't concerned about the Hate Crimes Bill in Harrisburg, he was only concerned about Same Sex Marriage passing and when I asked him if he was registered to vote he said he wasn't because he was disillusioned with the political system.)

Geez what did you expect?! Did you really think this ultra-conservative Congress would say, hey the Homos want to get married, sure why not, this is a deserving minority.....Come On!!

These are the guys who want to control the reproductive organs of women, take health care away from poor babies, give tax breaks for the mega rich and insist the idea that nicotine is addictive is merely a liberal plot while they take 2 million in tobacco contributions.

If the right to same sex marriage was a mountain, it would be Everest, and we haven't even climbed employment rights, or hate crimes yet. It is the Gold in the Decathlon, but we still have many heats to run.

But... don't despair. We are Americans, and Americans have been fighting for liberty and justice since the beginning, it's not a new concept. You don't have time to be disillusioned, you have work to do.

Figure it this way. 30 percent are for us. That's you and 2 straight people. We want 70 percent for us. So convince 4 members of the "unsure yet crowd" that we deserve the same rights as everyone else. Work on your family. Write to people who have been sympathetic to you but just may not know how important this issue is.

Here's a sample letter.

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Dear Mrs. Friend of your Mom's,

Thanks for your lovely Christmas card. I was just thinking of how kind you had always been to me when I was a kid in the old neighborhood so I just had to write you about this very important issue because I know you'll understand.

For the last ten years I've been living with (her or his name here). You may already know that I am a lesbian and you've known "Jane" for years, but I've never told you how very important Jane is to me. We are in a committed monogamous relationship and love each other very much. You may have heard that same-sex marriage may be a possibility in the United States soon, the way it is in Denmark, Holland and other countries. You may also have heard from mean spirited people lies about what they call the "gay life style".

The truth is, Jane and I would like to have the same rights as other couples who have been together for as many years as we have. But we have to pay more taxes, more for insurance, and more for all sorts of legal documents just to approximate the kind of protection married people get automatically. Did you know that in many instances if Jane were in the hospital I couldn't even visit her because we are not related? Think of how terrible it would be if Barry couldn't visit Brenda if she had been in a car accident or worse yet if she couldn't be on his insurance!

I know how important your family has been to you and how happy you were at Barry and Brenda's wedding. The legal protection marriage offers couples who love each other is very special in America. It's just not fair that Jane and I can't get married, we're hoping that will change. Please remember me and Jane when you hear untrue negative things about gay men and lesbians and know that the only "agenda" we and our friends have is...for the same rights as everyone else.

Best wishes to all of you.

Sincerely,

So do this. It costs no more than a stamp, or four because you must win over four people by the end of this year. Remember that 29 years ago when the right to interracial marriage was confirmed by the Supreme

Court 70 percent of the people were against it. Now the percentage is small. Things change, but not by themselves.

Frankly, you should also be sending money to groups fighting for your rights. Like the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters of PA and The Human Rights Campaign Fund. The Voter's League heads the fight for Gay and Lesbian rights in Harrisburg. The HRC is currently working to make ENDA an amendment to the anti-marriage bill in the Senate. Ted Kennedy is supposed to add it to the bill. It will guarantee gays' and lesbians' employment rights if the bill passes. Clinton will sign it because he has already endorsed ENDA. Since marriage is a court issue that means rather than losing something we could actually gain from all this. After all, these bills against marriage are currently moot because we don't actually have the rights to marriage. Wouldn't it be great if we got employment rights out of this anti-marriage bill and then the Supreme Court gave us marriage next year!

The Christian Coalition, the Catholic Church and other "bad-guy" anti-gay organizations are all getting contributions from their members. Every time Pat Robertson hums out a nasal request his 700 hundred club digs deep to fuel discrimination. You need to be funding the good guys. Yes you! These are your rights!!!!!!

Answers from page 8

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Tomlin | 21. Smith |
| 2. DeLaria | 22. Stein |
| 3. Hammarskjold | 23. Nureyev |
| 4. Williams | 24. Diaghilev |
| 5. John | 25. Andersen |
| 6. Wolfe | |
| 7. Frank | |
| 8. Nabors | |
| 9. Lang | |
| 10. Johnson | |
| 12. Clift | |
| 13. Bronte | |
| 14. Manilow | |
| 15. Price | |
| 16. Simmons | |
| 17. Navratilova | |
| 18. Millay | |
| 19. Actenburg | |
| 20. King | |



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The adult acting class is being offered on Tuesday evenings, September 24 through December 17, 1996 from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM at Touchstone Theatre. The 13-session class is open to actors of all levels of experience, artists interested in performance, and to non-actors who are interested in exploring and improving their abilities to perceive, create and express. This will not be a class on the interpretation of characters from existing plays. It will build on the natural ability we all possess to recognize truth, excitement and wonder. This ability will be cultivated through exercises that engage the students' will to discover. Movement, in all of its manifestations, will be the primary source of investigation and expression. The fee for the class is \$350.

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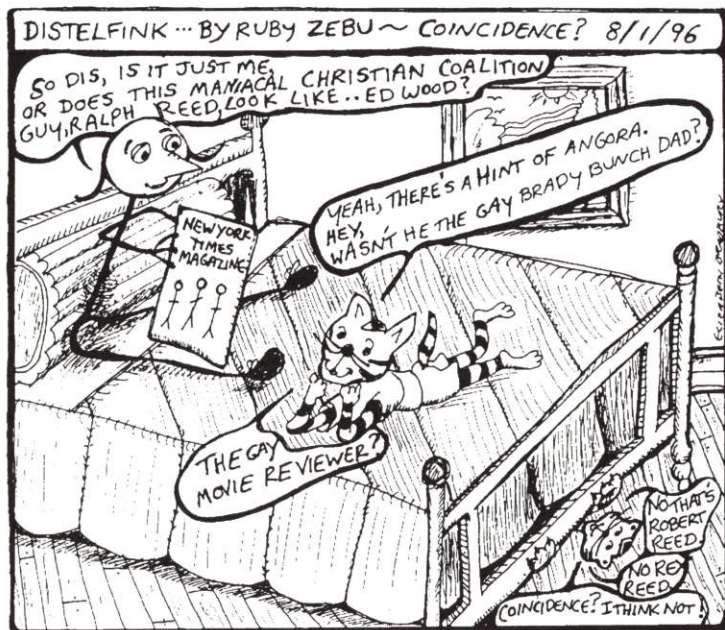


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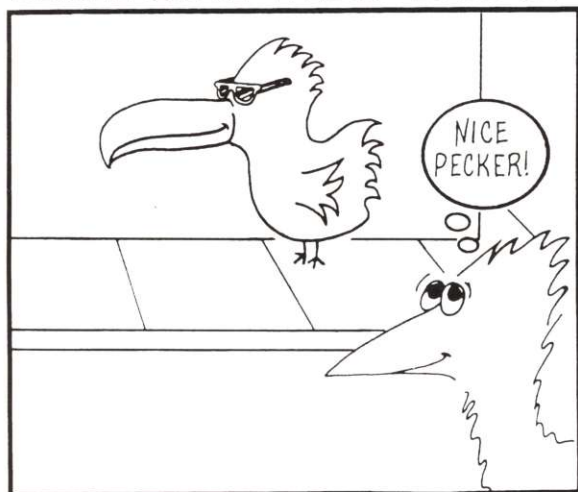
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by Evil Esther



AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Time away from your domestic problems will give you the perspective you need. Think it through, look at all the angles, this is the rest of your life at stake! There are no easy answers here, but you will find your way.



PISCES
Feb. 19-March 20

Just when you thought it was safe to be yourself, there is that busy-body telling you to take it down a few notches. Well, are you going to stand for this? Be your own person, after all, you are the only you there is.



ARIES
March 21-April 19

Cancer native comes through for you this month! Your darkest hour will find allies you never thought you had. "Constructive criticism" isn't that at all. It is meant to hurt, so make sure your eyes are open.



TAURUS
April 20-May 20

Travel highlighted for you this month. It seems excessive, in light of recent romantic stirrings, but it will pay off in the long run. Check your bags, and make sure you have everything on the way home!



GEMINI
May 21-June 20

When was the last time you did something nice for yourself? Well, wasn't that enough? You need to concentrate on others this month, as you have been neglecting them for some time.



CANCER
June 21-July 22

Romance heats up for you late in the month. Wear bright colors to show that you are alive! Your greatest asset is your smile, so let it out! It is your turn at bat, don't bunt. Aggressive tendencies pay off.



LEO
July 23-Aug. 22

Decision has been made for you. This time, you are not in the driver's seat. Take the ride as it comes. It is where you are meant to be, and in a short time, you will come to realize that you have made a wise choice. It is about time you grow up.



VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Feeling a little blue? Moping around won't help. Look inside to find that peace you need, and happiness will follow. No one likes to be around a bummer, maybe that's why you find yourself alone most times. Make the change.



LIBRA
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Distant relative has surprise for you this month. Keep the lines of communication open, it will bring you unexpected rewards. Invest wisely, and plan for your future. Bright ideas from your friends may get you in trouble!



SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

When did you last speak to your child? They just might need your support and advice at a time like this. Swallow your pride and pick up that phone. It isn't too late to make a difference...again.




SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Recent improvement in domestic setting have brightened your outlook on life. Take that extra happiness and spread it around, and it will come back threefold. There are no losers when everyone walks away happy.



CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Time to kick back and relax. Your much deserved vacation will take you to unfamiliar surroundings, new adventures and new faces. Friends are nearby to share in your fun and look out for you. New outlook when you return.



*The clock just
struck 2 AM,
but you just
got your
motor runnin'*

*Where ya
gonna go ?*

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parking across
the street.**

☆☆ **NO COVER CHARGE** ☆☆
To eat in our Breakfast Room

**700 Franklin St. Reading, PA
(610) 376-3536**

Community Resources

Bars / Clubs

ALLENTOWN

Candida
247 N. 12th St.
610-434-3071

Stonewall & Moose Lounge

28 N. 10th St.
610-432-0215

BETHLEHEM

Diamondz
1913 W. Broad St.
610-865-1028

EAST

STROUDSBURG
Rainbow Mountain
RD 8 Box 8174
717-223-8484

HARRISBURG

B-TLS
891 Eisenhower Blvd.
717-939-1123

Neptune Lounge

268 North St.
717-233-3078

Stallions

706 N. 3rd St.
717-232-3060

NEW HOPE

Cartwheel
Route 202
215-862-0880

Raven

385 W. Bridge St.
215-862-2081

READING

Scarab
724 Franklin St.
610-375-7878

Bars / Clubs

WILKES-BARRE/ SCRANTON AREA

Club Paragon
222 Wyoming Ave.
Scranton, PA
717-969-6399

The Buzz

133 N. Washington Ave.
Scranton, PA
717-969-0900

Selections

45 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA
717-829-4444

AIDS Related Organizations

AIDS Outreach

112 N. 5th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-435-8424

AIDS Services Center

60 W. Broad St.
Suite 205
Bethlehem, PA 18108
610-974-8701

Allentown Health

Bureau -HIV testing
245 N. 6th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
(contact David Moyer)
610-437-7742

FACT

P.O. Box 1028
Allentown, PA 18105
610-820-5519

FACT Bucks County

P.O. Box 616
Buckingham, PA 18912

Latino AIDS Outreach

610-861-6845

Wyoming Valley

AIDS Council
P.O. Box 2677
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703
717-823-5808

Religious Affiliations

Grace Covenant

Fellowship
247 N. 10th St.
Allentown, PA 18102
610-740-0247

Hope Ministries

Rev. Bob J. Forté
610-791-0716
24 hrs.-leave message.

Integrity

610-395-1785
610-758-8642

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

Unitarian Universalist Church
424 Center St.
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

Phoenix Ministries, ULC Inc.

Rev. Joël S. Diehl, DD, MsD.
610-433-5325 leave message

Zen Buddhist Sangha

Ongoing meditation meetings
610-559-8136
leave message

Community/Social/Support Organizations

Berks Gay & Lesbian

Alliance
P.O. Box 417
Reading, PA 19603-0417
610-373-0674

Gay Men of the

Lehigh Valley
Bethlehem, PA
610-439-8755

GLORA

Gays & Lesbians Of
Reading & Allentown
P.O. Box 1952
Allentown, PA 18105

League of Gay & Lesbian Voters

Lehigh Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 20781
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-0781
610-432-5449

Community/Social/Support Organizations (cont.)

Lehigh Valley Gay & Lesbian Task Force

P.O. Box 20253
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-868-3388

Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus

P.O. Box 20712
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-740-0247
610-821-0578

Lehigh Valley Lesbians

Bethlehem, PA
610-253-5454

North Eastern Pennsylvania TransGender Assoc.

P.O. Box 3624
Allentown, PA 18106
E-mail: GendrFrend@aol.com
610-821-2955

P-Flag

Memb. Info: 215-368-2473
Newsletter: 215-234-4049
Support: 610-820-9838

PRIDE of the

Lehigh Valley
P.O. Box 20804
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610-770-6200

Renaissance

Education Assoc., Inc
P.O. Box 2122
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122
717-780-1578

Velvet Spikers

volleyball-tennis
P.O. Box 21862
Lehigh Valley, PA
18002-1862
610-434-2966

If your organization would like to be listed in AboveGround Magazine, Call (610)821-1321 or write P.O. Box 1656 Allentown, PA 18105-1656

Does Your non-profit Organization have an event coming up ?? Call AboveGround for special discounted ad rates!!

REAL ESTATE - RENT

****If you would like a full-issue-copy of your ad, include \$1.50 for P&H**

Labor Day CELEBRATION!

Friday, August 30

• **THE BOUND BOYZ** •

Hot Male Review

11:30 PM in the Disco

• **SPECIAL HAPPY HOUR** •

8:00PM - 10:00PM

Saturday, August 31

• **NO COVER BEFORE 10PM** •

• **SPECIAL HAPPY HOUR** •

8:00PM - 10:00PM

Sunday, September 1

• **THE DREAM TEAM** •

Hot Male Review

11:30PM in the Disco

• **KARAOKE SING-ALONG** •

In the Lounge 10PM-2AM

• **SPECIAL HAPPY HOUR** •

8:00PM - 10:00PM

Monday, September 2

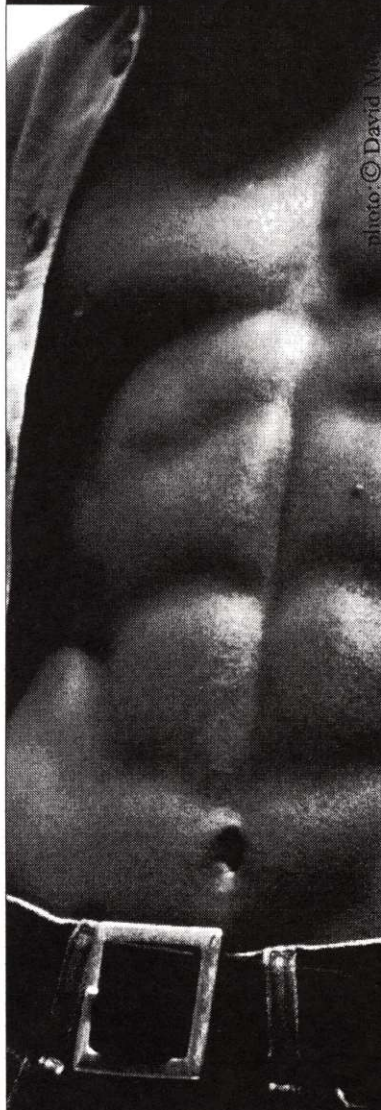
• **ALL AGE NIGHT** •

In the Disco 10PM-2AM

18 Years & Older

• **LOUNGE OPENS At 8PM** •

Happy Hour 9-11PM



Dance



Eat



Play

STONEWALL

28 N 10th Street Allentown PA 18101 610-432-0215